

Guidelines for Distribution of the Free Limited Supply of Rifapentine

The CDC issued guidelines for a new treatment regimen for latent TB infection (LTBI) in late 2011. The regimen involves weekly doses of isoniazid and Priftin (rifapentine) given by directly observed therapy (DOT). VDH has purchased a limited supply of Priftin (the more expensive part of the regimen). The Priftin is available through the state pharmacy at no cost to either the district or client for the drug. Normal shipping charges and policies will apply. The free Priftin will be available on a first come, first served basis until the supply is exhausted.

1. The Priftin (rifapentine) supply will only be available from the state pharmacy one prescription at a time. Bulk orders for local health departments will not be provided.
 - a. The free supply of medication should only be used for those individuals without another payer source, i.e. insurance, correction responsible for treatment, Medicaid, etc.
2. The prescriptions for both isoniazid and Priftin (rifapentine) should be written for the full 12-week regimen.
 - a. **Extreme care should be taken in the prescribing process.** Although not by a health department, we have had at least one instance in Virginia where a prescription has been written for weekly INH and rifampin instead of weekly INH/Priftin (rifapentine).
 - b. Priftin, like all rifamycins, has a significant number of drug-drug interactions. A careful history, including current medications, should be taken prior to prescribing the INH/Priftin regimen.
3. Initially, the pharmacy will supply only 4-weeks of INH and Priftin (rifapentine) to assure that the client will tolerate the regimen as well as be compliant with the treatment.
 - a. Once the initial 4-weeks is filled at no cost to the client, the remaining 8 weeks of medication will be reserved so that medication is available for the client to complete treatment with the free supply.
 - b. Please notify the pharmacy immediately if a client will not complete treatment so that the balance of the medication on hold can be released for other clients.
4. The remaining 8 weeks will be distributed in full when the re-order is placed at the end of one month.
5. All doses of the INH/Priftin regimen **MUST** be given by DOT.
6. The VDH Guidelines for using the new INH/Priftin Regimen can be found at:
http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DiseasePrevention/Programs/Tuberculosis/documents/2012/pdf/Guidelines_INH%20Rifapentine_2012.pdf
7. The CDC guidelines for the 3HP regimen (INH/Priftin [rifapentine]) can be found at:
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6048a3.htm?s_cid=mm6048a3_w
8. If any client on this regimen experiences side effects or a potential toxic reaction, please call TB Control at 804-864-7906 immediately.